

Message Text

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FOR SECRETARY, SISCO, ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

EO: 11652: XGDS 1, 3

TAGS: EG IS PFOR

SUBJ: GENEVA MILITARY WORKING GROUP - BACKGROUND FOR SECRETARY'S
MEETING WITH PERES, SEPTEMBER 20

1. MAIN ELEMENT IN SITUATION HERE FRIDAY WHICH SECRETARY WILL WANT TO HAVE IN MIND BEFORE HE SEES PERES SATURDAY IS THAT ALL THE EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITIES FROM SHUTTLE, FROM ARAB REACTION, AND FROM WORKING GROUP NEGOTIATIONS WILL COME TO SURFACE HERE NEXT THREE DAYS AS WORKING GROUP GOES THROUGH TEDIOUS JOB OF PRODUCING FINAL DRAFT OF PROTOCOL AND CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT. EGYPTIANS HAVE RECEIVED STIFF INSTRUCTIONS FROM GAMASY - WHICH HAVE INCREASED EDGINESS OF NEGOTIATING TEAM - TO STRIP PROTOCOL OF ALL BUT ESSENTIALS. EGYPTIAN MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION WILL, IN TURN, CAUSE ISRAELIS TO QUESTION EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS AND TO INSIST ON INCLUSION OF POINTS ALREADY AGREED DURING TALKS HERE. RESULT COULD WELL BE DEADLOCK HERE OVER PRESENTATION, WHICH OF COURSE HAS SUBSTANTIVE IMPLICATIONS.

2. WHILE REVISED PLAN FOR PHASING OF REDEPLOYMENT WAS ACCEPTED BY EGYPTIAN DELEGATION THURSDAY NIGHT, I SUSPECT GAMASY MAY HAVE RAPPED THEM FOR GIVING IN. THEY HAVE NOT YET RE-OPENED ISSUE IN WORKING GROUP, BUT THEY MAY. WHETHER THEY RE-OPEN ISSUE OR NOT, EGYPTIANS SEE NO CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION IN SCHEDULE EVEN IF THEY ACCEPT IT. FACT IS, WHATEVER EARLY PHASING ACHIEVED IN PRESENT BUFFER ZONE HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN EGYPT AND UNEF WITH NO RPT

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NO CHANGE IN ISRAELI PULL BACK SCHEDULE. SO THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR

CONGRATULATING PERES.

3. OTHER ISSUE STILL BOILING HERE IS QUESTION OF WHAT MOBILE EQUIPMENT ISRAEL WILL LEAVE IN OIL FIELDS. ISRAELIS HAVE JUST PRESENTED LIST, AND EGYPTIANS HAVE NOT HAD CHANCE TO STUDY IT YET. PRINCIPLE PERES DESCRIBED IS THAT ISRAEL WILL LEAVE ALL EQUIPMENT WHICH WAS THERE IN 1967 PLUS WHATEVER IT HAS BOUGHT SINCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENI WHILE TAKING AWAY ANYTHING IT BOUGHT ITSELF. I AM OUT OF MY DEPTH, BUT AT A GLANCE I CAN SEE ITEMS ON ISRAELI LIST OF THINGS TO REMOVE THAT ARE ON EGYPT'S LIST OF EQUIPMENT ESSENTIAL FOR OPERATION AND NOT QUICKLY PROCURABLE ON MARKET. THUS, THIS IS POINT WHICH COULD WELL BE RAISED WITH PERES IN TACTFUL PRE-EMPTIVE WAY, BECAUSE IT IS NOT CLEAR YET HOW ACCOMMODATING ISRAELIS HERE WILL END UP BEING. ISRAELIS COULD AT LEAST MAKE SOME KIND OF TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR EQUIPMENT USE.

4. I WOULD SUGGEST NOT RPT NOT RAISING LOCATION OF US WATCH STATION IN GIDDI PASS. WHEN I EXPLAINED RATIONALE FOR OUR PROPOSAL TO SHAFIR TODAY, HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD. UNLESS HE RECEIVES DIFFERENT INSTRUCTIONS FROM PERES, THERE IS NO OBSTACLE HERE TO PUTTING ALL THREE LOCATIONS ON MAP AS WE HAVE PROPOSED THEM, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS AS RESULT OUR FIELD SURVEY. EXPLANATION I GAVE WAS SIMPLY THAT WE HAD CHOSEN HIGH GROUND BECAUSE IT GAVE US MUCH BROADER VIEW THAN BEING DOWN ON ROAD AND BECAUSE THERE IS NO PARTICULAR TASK TO BE PERFORMED ON ROAD SINCE IT IS AGREED THAT UNEF WILL ESCORT EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI TECHNICIANS TO SURVEILLANCE SITES AND US WILL CHECK THEM ON ENTERING AND LEAVING.

5. ISSUE OF CIVILIANS IN BUFFER ZONE SEEMS ON WAY TO RESOLUTION WITH IDEA OF PERIOD FOR RETURNEES FEBRUARY 22 TO MARCH 22, A CENSUS TO ESTABLISH RESIDENCE, AND STABILIZATION OF POPULATION AT THAT POINT. DETAILS BEING DEBATED TODAY.

6. OTHER ISSUES LIKE POLICE AND JOINT COMMISSION STILL UNDER DISCUSSION, BUT SECRETARY WILL NOT WANT TO GET INTO THOSE.

7. MAIN WORK HERE AIMING FOR INITIALING MONDAY IS CONCLUDING DISCUSSION OF REMAINING ISSUES AND DRAFTING.

8. I WOULD SUGGEST MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS TO PERES REGARDING
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GENEVA TALKS:

A. GLAD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD AGREEMENT ON PHASING OF REDEPLOYMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, WAY THIS ISSUE HANDLED HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO BETTER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP.

B. COMING BACK TO EQUIPMENT ISRAEL WILL REMOVE FROM OILFIELDS, WE CANNOT EMPHASIZE TOO STRONGLY NEGATIVE EFFECT IF ISRAEL REMOVES

EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR OPERATION WHICH EGYPT CANNOT QUICKLY REPLACE FROM MARKET. ISRAEL MIGHT EVEN CONSIDER TRANSITIONAL LEASE OF SOME EQUIPMENT TO AVOID PUBLICITY LIKE THAT GENERATED BY KUNEITRA IN 1974.

C. GENEVA TALKS NOW ENTERING PERIOD OF FINAL DRAFTING. URGE ISRAELIS TO SHOW SOME UNDERSTANDING OF EGYPTIAN PROBLEM AND NOT BE TOO LEGALISTIC IN DETERMINING WHAT MUST BE IN PROTOCOL WHICH WILL BE PUBLIC AS CONTRASTED TO CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT WHICH SHOULD REMAIN PRIVATE. SIMILARLY, WE WILL, IF APPROACHED BY EGYPTIANS, TAKE POSITION THAT PROTOCOL MUST BE A SERIOUS DOCUMENT.

9. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO CAIRO AND TEL AVIV.BRUNGART

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